

MOTION

San Pedro was part of the first Spanish land grant in California. In 1784, King Carlos III granted 75,000 acres to Juan Jose Dominguez, a retired Spanish soldier and early California explorer. Mexican influence has remained present in San Pedro and its neighboring communities, impacting the industries for many decades and the Port of Los Angeles. In the 1920s, a five-acre area on the north end of the waterfront, between First Street and where the Vincent Thomas Bridge now stands was informally known as "Mexican Hollywood". Once a small, tight-knit neighborhood full of culture and community, it is now Berth 93 and a vast Port parking lot.

Twentieth-century Mexican and Mexican-American women and men were a strong part of cannery production for this region. During the 1920s, men found employment at a shipping firm known as Coast Welding Company, and women worked in the home, cooked, and provided laundry service to locals. Residents of Mexican Hollywood worked at the fish canneries in Terminal Island, lumber yards, shipyards, Harbor Belt Railroad Line, and as waterfront dock workers. The 1930s and 1940s census also reflect that Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans also worked in other labor fields such as iron works, plumbing shops, road and airport construction, carpenters, paving companies, oil refineries, trucking yards, fishermen, cooks, landlords, ranch hands, waitresses, grocery store owners, and longshoremen that produced great monetary revenue for businesses and local government.

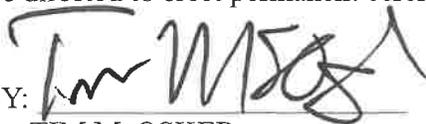
Soon after it was established, Mexican Hollywood became one of the focal points of competitive baseball and softball for both women and men. By the early 1930s, a field at the southeast corner of Ancon and O'Farrell streets was developed and called Bob Myers Field. Players based in Mexican Hollywood and other Mexican communities in San Pedro, such as the Barton Hill and La Rambla areas, would compete and draw attention from other local South Bay communities.

Mexican Hollywood endured and thrived for many decades until 1952 when families were evicted due to the proposed construction of the Vincent Thomas Bridge which was completed in 1963. It is unknown if the families received any compensation for their displacement. Mexican Hollywood showed great love for their community and displayed pride in their culture with its music, dance, theater productions, and community outreach service such as the Alianza Protectora de Obreros organization founded in 1922. This organization raised funds to help local families bury their deceased loved ones. It is also known that San Pedro's first Spanish newspaper, "El Faro", which means "The Light House" was published on July 28, 1950. This newspaper provided local news to San Pedro's Spanish-speaking resides.

The Mexican Hollywood community offered multiple educational courses, gardening, art, and other services at the Toberman Settlement House annex on Ancon Street. It is said that these services were managed by the community's local women's group leaders. The legacy of Mexican Hollywood lives today in San Pedro and the Council Office would be honored to celebrate its impact on the local community and the history of Los Angeles.

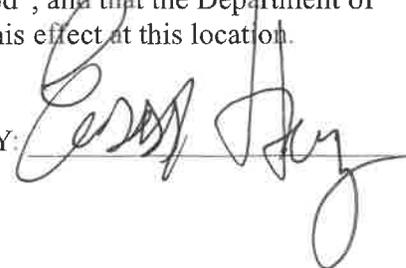
I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection of the northeast edge of O'Farrell Street and Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro be designated as "Mexican Hollywood", and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:



TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



PK

SEP 13 2024

OFFICIAL